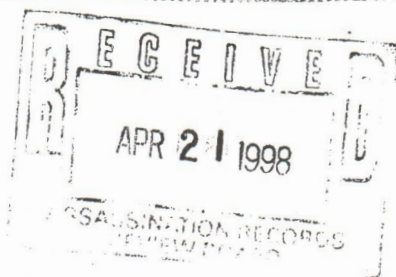


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NARA 9-12 DATE 11-28-9



April 17, 1998
PO Box 305,
Cayucos, CA 93430
(805) 995-3352

Dr. Michelle Coombs
Senior Analyst,
Assassination Records Review Board,
600 E St. NW 2nd floor
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Dr. Coombs:

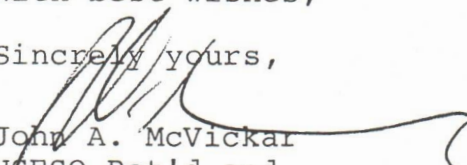
Though I have not heard from you, I assume that you received the attached letter of Nov. 12, 1997.

I'm still living here in Cayucos, CA, and the above address and phone number remain valid. However, this is still a temporary arrangement, and I may have to move, mostly for financial reasons, either within or outside of California. I have the definite impression that I am still suffering here from the problems that I related in my Second Affidavit to ARRB.

However, absent more/other advice from ARRB, I do not intent to pursue the matter further with ARRB or the State Department. I just feel that there is too much that I do not know about the entire situation. You all obviously know much more than I, and I must trust that you at ARRB will do whatever is best for our country in the entire context. That must be my main concern.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,


John A. McVickar
USFSO Ret'd and
Attorney

JAMcV/mv

Enclosure: prior letter of Nov. 12, 1997

Memo to Michelle Combs, re: Rimestad interview
March 26, 1997
Page 2

Interview Report

In my meeting with Mr. Rimestad, I hewed closely to your "Proposed Topic Questions for Idar Rimestad Interview" (Combs t:\rimesta1.wpd). Accordingly, this report reflects the topic order as laid out in your list of questions.

Background Information - Prior to his service in Moscow, Mr. Rimestad served in Germany for seven years, from 1947 until 1953. From 1947 until 1949 he served as a G-1 in the military. In 1949 he transferred to the Office of the High Commissioner, where he formed a lifelong friendship with John McCloy. In 1953 he went to Washington where he worked in the State Department's personnel assignment office until 1957. He sought and received the posting to the Moscow embassy in 1957, arriving in Moscow in December of that year. He was the chief administrative officer at the embassy. In this capacity he was in charge of all budgetary and fiscal issues regarding the running of the embassy, as well as having administrative responsibility for the day-to-day operation of the facility (general services). He also had overall responsibility for embassy security. As he put it, he was in charge of just about everything except the political, consular and diplomatic functions of the embassy. He lived in the embassy, on the fifth floor (of eight). He was to have stayed on at the embassy until after the anticipated Eisenhower-Khrushchev summit meeting but, subsequent to its cancellation (as a result of the shooting down of Gary Powers' U-2), Mr. Rimestad left Moscow in June of 1960 and returned to Washington.

Embassy Details, 1959 - Mr. Rimestad described the embassy as having eight floors [for purposes of this interview, Mr. Rimestad counted the embassy's floors in what might be termed the American way; that is, the floor above the ground floor would be the second floor]. Mr. Rimestad's office was on the ground floor, along with the consular section and work space for the embassy's Russian employees. Mr. Rimestad's office was away from the embassy entrance, back a hallway, and as such he would have been physically buffered from what was happening closer to the embassy's entrance. He was vague, but thought that there might have been three or four offices between the front, or entry area, of the ground floor and his office in the back. Mr. Rimestad said there was no receptionist-type desk in the hallway near the entrance to the embassy; that is, there was no physical barrier to someone who had been admitted past the Russian guards simply walking down the hallway past the consular offices. He may not have recalled (I neglected to ask him) that there may have been such a desk (as recounted by Mrs. Hallett) for a limited period in mid-1959, during the American Exposition. He said that, as a matter of practice, any stranger wandering down the hallway would be intercepted by any number of people in the consular offices before they got very far. Though he

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had difficulty explaining how the process of greeting visitors to the embassy worked, he stated that there was a Russian-speaking receptionist in one of the forward consular offices (not in the hallway), and that she would normally be the first to interact with visitors. Again, Mr. Rimestad's eyesight is such that it was impossible for him to review the ground-floor layout as depicted by Mrs. Hallett, and impractical to ask him to draw one himself. Mr. Rimestad said the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th floors of the embassy were "mainly" residential, though he allowed that these floors may also have contained "scattered" offices. Mr. Rimestad said the 6th floor contained the offices of the political and economic officers of the embassy; the 7th floor contained the Ambassador's office, a conference area and security offices. Mr. Rimestad initially said that "there wasn't much" on the 8th floor. Subsequently, as he tried to remember where the military attaches had their offices, he allowed that they might have been on the eighth floor, although he was uncertain on this issue. He seemed to come to the conclusion that the military attache offices were on the 8th floor by a process of elimination: he couldn't remember them being anywhere else. He said the embassy was "heavy with military attaches." As he put it, "they had a lot of them, and they had to be somewhere!" As indicated in the summary section of this memo, Mr. Rimestad had no recollection of either Richard Snyder or John McVickar. He did recall the names of two individuals on the embassy staff who he said were CIA employees. One, he recalled, was named "Winters" and nominally worked in the economic section. Reading from the 10/59 Foreign Service list I had brought with me, I asked Mr. Rimestad whether this person might be George P. Winters, Jr., and he responded affirmatively. The other name he recalled as "Langley" or "Langsley" and, after some reflection, he stated that he thought, but could not say for sure, that this individual's first name was "Russ". He recalled that the Russians had somehow identified "Langley", as he had been picked up by the Russians within blocks of the embassy "carrying a box of rubles". [NOTE: Both Winters and a Russell Langelle are referenced in a footnote on p. 169 of David Wise's *Molehunt*. Presumably, Langelle is the "Langley" or "Langsley" recalled by Mr. Rimestad.] Mr. Rimestad stated that these were the only agency personnel he knew to be such at the time, and that he never subsequently learned whether any other embassy employees worked for the agency. He did not then, and does not now, know who the Chief of Station was. He says that in other postings he had, he sometimes did know who the COS was, but that at the Moscow embassy this sort of information would have been held much more tightly and would have been highly compartmentalized. Although he did not know specifically of any other CIA operatives in the embassy, he stated that, as a general proposition, "most military attaches were suspect." I took this comment to refer to *any* embassy, not just the *Moscow* embassy. Mr. Rimestad stated that, to the best of his recollection, the 6th, 7th and 8th floor of the embassy were assumed to be secure (that is, free of Soviet listening devices). His recollection, however, seemed uncertain on this question. Finally, Mr. Rimestad stated his opinion

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that "it would not be an ordinary event" for a visitor to the embassy to be taken on the elevator to one of the upper floors. He then qualified this assertion by stating that, perhaps, if a visitor insisted on seeing the Ambassador, he/she might be taken upstairs for that purpose.

Oswald - Mr. Rimestad had never heard of Lee Harvey Oswald prior to President Kennedy's assassination. He had not seen Oswald during the latter's visit to the Moscow embassy in 1959, nor was he contemporaneously or subsequently (during his tenure in Moscow) informed/made aware of Oswald's visit. Nor has anyone from any government body or official investigation ever questioned him about Oswald since the assassination. Mr. Rimestad was back in Washington by the time of the assassination, and so has no information to offer as to the reaction in the Moscow embassy to that event. Mr. Rimestad was returning to the State Department from lunch at the Watergate complex when a colleague told him that the President had been shot in Dallas.

032697.wpd

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MEETING REPORT



Document's Author: Douglas Horne/ARRB

Date Created: 11/08/96

Meeting Logistics

Date: 11/07/96
Agency Name: Witnesses/Consultants
Attendees: Mr. William Horbaly, Michelle Combs, Douglas Horne
Topic: ARRB Interviewed William Horbaly (Revised 11/12/96)

Summary of the Meeting

On Thursday, November 7, 1996, Michelle Combs and Douglas Horne travelled to Charlottesville, Virginia to interview Mr. William Horbaly, an individual who was employed at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow from 1959-1964.

We first asked Mr. Horbaly to give us a brief summary of his career prior to, and during, his employment at the U. S. Embassy in Moscow from 1959-1964.

He said that during World War II he was a U.S. Army junior officer in light tanks in Europe; after the war, he eventually received a Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Chicago. He said that because of his family's Eastern European ethnic origins, he had developed a proficiency for slavic languages, and could speak Czech, Slovak, and Russian. He explained that he had become a self-made expert on farm practices in (newly communist) Czechoslovakia, after winning a fellowship and doing research there for a year, and writing his dissertation on that subject.

He said that in 1951 he was hired by the CIA as Branch Chief of the Soviet Geography Branch, and held that job through 1958. (This was on the intelligence/analysis side of the house, not the operations side.) Even though head of the Soviet Geography Branch, he said his branch made many contributions to the study and analysis of Soviet agriculture. As an aside, he mentioned that while working as Branch Chief of Soviet Geography for the CIA, he ended up briefing Francis Gary Powers and other U-2 pilots on "escape and evasion" in the event they were captured; he made clear that he did not brief any U-2 pilots regarding photographic targets—only on escape and evasion.

While at CIA, Mr. Horbaly said that a senior official, a Mr. John Clark, recommended that he accept a job with the Department of State and go to Moscow to serve as Agricultural Attache at the U. S. Embassy. Mr. Horbaly said that he decided to apply for and accept that position with State because of his interest in, and knowledge of, Soviet and Eastern Bloc agriculture and languages.

He said he served two tours of duty at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow of about 2.5 years duration each, as follows:

- First tour: 1959-1962, as Agricultural Attache, working for Department of State.

- Followed by Home Leave in the U.S.

- Second Tour: 1962-1964, as a member of the Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service.

Mr. Horbaly made very clear, when asked by his interviewers, that he was NOT working under cover for the CIA while performing his agricultural duties in Moscow. He said that no one at the CIA ever approached him at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow and asked him to do any work, and that if they had, he would have refused.

He said he shifted "hats" during his second tour of duty because one particular congressman objected to the presence of agricultural experts in overseas embassies who worked for the State Department. Even though he returned to the USSR the second time working for a different agency and with a different job title, he said that his duties were the same during each tour--namely, studying Soviet crop production by reading newspapers and periodicals and by talking with as many Soviet officials as possible, and making predictions of crop yields based on data gathered. He said that his job at the U.S. Embassy in

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Moscow entailed travelling inside the Soviet Union, or to international conferences, about 5 months out of every year.

Part of the culture at the U.S. Embassy, he explained, was that no one asked whether another person was or was not working for the CIA--it was simply something that was not done, since it was assumed that unless you were in "the cage" (a protected area used for staff meetings), everything you said was subject to being overheard by a Soviet surveillance bug.

ARRB staff asked Mr. Horbaly to describe the Embassy's physical layout, and what function was performed on each floor. He made the general statement that the embassy was a "rabbit-warren," but could not remember enough details to draw a floor-plan for ARRB of the first floor, as we requested. He described the functions of each floor as follows:

- 1st Floor: Receptionist, Consular Section, and Administrative Offices;
- 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Floors: Apartments;
- 5th Floor: Economic and Political Officers;
- 6th Floor: Ambassador's Office--he also called this the "main floor;"
- 7th Floor: Military Attaches. (Top Floor)

When asked on which floor he worked, Mr. Horbaly was unsure, and said it was either the 5th floor or 6th floor, but he could not specify after all these years.

We asked him if he knew several people; the summary responses he made are shown below next to each name:

-Richard Snyder: consular officer, worked on the first floor;

-John McVickar: worked upstairs on either the 5th or 6th floor, and was some kind of a "political officer," and was a "character." Definitely did not work on the first floor. On one trip to Vilnius, Lithuania, McVickar, who had travelled with Horbaly because of a mandatory "two-man" travel rule, "took off on his own" and Horbaly said he never did know what McVickar was up to, or where he went, on this occasion. He said McVickar was a pleasant-enough fellow, but that what he "produced" as a work product was a bit of a mystery.

-Mr. Idar Rimstead: was the administrative officer who worked on the first floor--was described as "an operator."

-Verna Dean Brown: worked for Mr. Snyder on the first floor, and was the wife of George Stanley Brown.

-George Stanley Brown: worked as Mr. Horbaly's assistant (Assistant Agricultural Attache?); husband of Verna Dean Brown.

-Joan and Oliver Hallet: Recalled that Oliver Hallet was Assistant Naval Attache only when he was directly asked this question by ARRB interviewers; Mr. Horbaly then recalled that perhaps Joan Hallet had "run the commissary."

Mr. Horbaly never saw Oswald in the embassy at all, neither at the time of Oswald's defection, nor in 1962 at the time Oswald was negotiating his return. He said he never heard any discussion of Oswald inside the embassy at any time. He said the reaction of his co-workers to news of the assassination was one of profound shock, but that all he remembered of the events was the preparation of black bunting by his wife, and of the formal condolence calls by many foreign diplomatic officials during the days after the assassination.

Regarding the question of whether there were CIA employees working at the embassy while Mr. Horbaly was there, he said that there were two indications in the affirmative:

-Horbaly recognized one embassy employee who reported for work after he did as a person whom he had previously known as a CIA employee at CIA headquarters;

-In another case, after his return to the United States, he saw a former U. S. Embassy, Moscow employee at CIA headquarters, which led him to believe that this person had been working for the agency while at the embassy.

Following the completion of his two tours in Moscow, Mr. Horbaly saw Verna Dean Brown's name on a door at the Department of Agriculture, indicating to him that she was working there following completion of her Moscow tour at the Embassy. END

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The New York Times/April 9, 1987

U.S. and Arms Control: The Internal Discord Persists

By CRAIG R. WHITNEY

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 8 — Three days before Secretary of State George P. Shultz was to leave for arms control talks in Moscow with Mikhail S. Gorbachev, he got his negotiating instructions from President Reagan at a meeting at the White House today.

News Analysis In most recent American administrations, this would have been an unremarkable event, part of the normal bureaucratic wrangling between Government agencies before any crucial meeting with the Russians.

But in the Reagan Administration, fundamental discord on what should be negotiated with the Russians has gone on for most of the last six years. And according to several officials directly involved this time, that discord continued right up to the national security meeting the President headed at the White House on Tuesday.

Some disagreements may not have been resolved even then, they say, and one of the reasons is that the President seldom intervenes directly and tells his subordinates to stop arguing because he has made up his mind.

The last time he did was in October, at the Iceland summit meeting with Mr. Gorbachev. He decided on the spot to offer a plan to do away with all offensive missiles within 10 years if Moscow would agree to American research on the Strategic Defense Initiative, known as "Star Wars."

All the European allies, and supporters and critics of the Administration alike, later agreed that Mr. Gorbachev

spared the President a policy disaster by refusing to agree to a plan that would have left Western Europe facing superior Soviet conventional forces.

Since last fall, the Administration has publicly backed away from the proposal to eliminate all nuclear missiles, and the Soviet leaders may have changed some of their positions as well. Mr. Shultz will find out when he starts his talks in Moscow on Monday.

But after Iceland, according to a high Administration official, the lower-level wrangling in the Government also resumed, particularly over such questions as how to respond to informal Soviet overtures that could be presented formally next week in Moscow.

Paul H. Nitze, the special adviser to the President and the Secretary of State on arms control, has been saying publicly that a decision on when to deploy "Star Wars" should wait until it was clear that ballistic missile defense would work and that the Russians could not counter it cheaply by deploying more offensive weapons.

Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger has been saying the President wants to deploy, and Mr. Weinberger makes it clear that the sooner the better, possibly as early as 1994.

American officials have not yet been able to agree on what kind of proposal to present to the Russians that would make continued work on "Star Wars" compatible with the 1972 anti-ballistic missile treaty with Moscow.

New Reading of Treaty

After much internal debate, the Administration agreed to adopt an interpretation of the ABM treaty that would

allow new anti-missile technologies based on principles not known in 1972.

Mr. Nitze made part of the dispute public, in an article he wrote last week for The Washington Post, after failing to get the Administration to adopt one idea as an approach to the problem.

He wrote that there was "the possibility of a dialogue, along the lines some Soviet scientists have advanced, aimed at identifying the technologies now understood to be based upon other physical principles."

"Using such definitions, once can conceive of a regime that would allow S.D.I. to proceed at a rapid but predictable pace," he went on.

Yevgeny P. Velikhov, a vice president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, was here in January and did see Mr. Nitze, according to a spokesman for the Soviet Embassy.

Richard N. Perle, an Assistant Secretary of Defense, said in an interview last week that such an "unofficial" approach should not be taken seriously until the Russians presented it officially. He is also said to believe the idea would be unworkable in any case.

"If we reached agreement on a schedule of permitted and prohibited activity, it'll be unverifiable," a Pentagon official said, "and it will create unequal barriers. If we agreed that lasers can't be tested in space at a power greater than 'x,' the United States will stay well within that power, and there's no confidence the Soviets will assume similar restrictive obligations. And then they could be well ahead of us in areas where we started behind."

Mr. Perle is going to Moscow with Mr. Shultz this weekend to make sure the Pentagon's views do not get short-

shrift in negotiation.

A high Administration official, when asked recently, "Do we want to reach an agreement?" answered, "That depends on who 'we' are."

THE

BARBARA SEASON'S AT THE 7th SATURDAY SUNDAY FRED THE FUR SALE

CRÈME DE MINK

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McVickar

Career generally

CIA

State

DC, New Delhi, Hong Kong

Clerk

Economist

Consular

Moscow

Cochabamba

Intelligence

Classified, intelligence work?

Perform any duties or favors for CIA after entering FSO
 show doc

Moscow

June 59 arrive in Moscow

September 61 depart Moscow

Moscow Embassy layout

Where was your office

Did you have more than one office

Ever have an office on the 9th floor

Draw a picture of the floor

Moscow personnel

Marie Cheatham

Verna Dean Brown

Richard Snyder

Joan Hallett

Oliver Hallett

Russell Langelie

Llewellyn Thompson

War Rinstead

Snyder

(Ad Officer) Am & 1959.

Bio data cards.

U-2

Navy WWII

Georgetown 1948

FSE.

Clerk Adm room New Delhi.

Vice Consul N.D

1949-51

1951-54 Hong Kong.

Consular Section

1954- Chinese Affairs.

54-56

56 - Soviet Desk,
 language

58-59 Cambridge.

Junior Consul.

Soviet & EE Exchange

Staff

Soviet Scientific

Exchanges.

Spanish language

1964-

Bolivia

Cochabamba

1966 - INR

Soviet Military Affairs

7-8 Story apt building

3 russian women

✓ Snyder
 ✓ one other that Wise
 ✓ Secretary Verna Deane Brown.
 shared room w/ Snyder

May 1961
 partioned office.

Maie Creath
 Stanley Brown
 Jaggie Attache

Entrance
 desk.

Oswald came in the first time

Summer 1961

hitman

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Oswald defection

When did he first visit

[11/27/63] "came into the Embassy immediately after his arrival"

all impressions

Did you say anything?

How did you think Snyder handled it.

Any other visits

Visit to Oswald on November 9

Was there an Oswald file (see 11/9/59)

What was in the file

Letter from Oswald protesting Snyder's treatment

Procedure in USSR for passports

turned in at Hotel?

Did Oswald have his?

How?

Did he leave in at AMEMBASSY?

Hotel room at 233 Metropole

wasn't the room bugged by KGB

Consular handling of Oswald

Do you recall what a "refusal sheet" is? WR at 750

Lookout card?

November 17-19 Memorandum

Discussions w/McMillan

Anything seem odd about the Oswald case?

manner of entry into USSR?

talking to bugs in embassy?

classified information?

Marina's exit visa?

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Oswald return

Other defectors

Petrucelli

Robert Webster

McVickar Post Moscow

10/1/61	State Bureau of European Affairs (Soviet and East European Exchanges)
1963	Initially scheduled for Karachi. Change to La Paz. 16 weeks of language study at FSI. Transfer to La Paz in November, 1963 as Second Consul.
1/64	Becomes Chief Consul in La Paz.
4/66	Intelligence Research Specialist in INR[!]
68	Retires

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Chronology

1/60 Oswald "probably" did not leave for Minsk prior to this time. (WR, 751).

12/60 Oswald may have sent letter to Amembassy. He references sending this in his letter postmarked 2/5/61.

2/10-11/61 Amembassy receives, by diplomatic pouch, communication from State requesting info on Oswald.

2/13/61 Amembassy Moscow receives letter from Oswald (postmarked Minsk 2/5/61) expressing his desire to return to the US provided that there would be no legal proceedings against him.¹

2/26/61 Amembassy Moscow sends dispatch to State regarding Oswald's wish to return to US. See State response, 4/13/61.

2/28/61 Snyder writes to Oswald saying he should come to US Embassy for an interview.

3/5/61 Oswald writes to Snyder requesting that information be exchanged through mail rather than by personal interview.

3/12/61 Oswald sends letter to Amembassy (received 3/20).

3/17/61 Oswald meets 19-year-old Marina Prusakova at a dance.

3/20/61 Amembassy Moscow receives letter from Oswald (postmarked Minsk 3/5/61) stating personal interview in Moscow inconvenient and asking to substitute questionnaire.²

4/13/61 State advises Amembassy Moscow that it cannot give assurances on prosecution of Oswald. Instructs Amembassy to take statements from Oswald *under oath*.

4/24/61 Amembassy Moscow sends dispatch to State regarding Oswald. See 4/13/61.

¹HSCA Rep. 209.

²5/23/61 memo from SAC, WFO to Director, FBI.

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4/30/61	Oswald marries Marina Prusakova .
7/8/61	Oswald appears without notice at Amembassy.
7/11/61	Snyder interviews Oswald
7/11/61	McVickar probably interviews Marina. WH 319.
10/1/61	Effective date of McVickar's transfer from Moscow to Washington.
8/4/63	McVickar assigned to FSI for Spanish language study.
11/24/63	McVickar reassigned to Bolivia.
6/9/64	Testifies to WC
5/5/78	Testifies to HSCA

early interviews

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McVicker 30 June 91

CAREER

WWII enlisted man
 Georgetown For Sen School 1948
 passed for sen exam
 became a clerk in New Delhi in file room
 commissioned as vice consul ^{in New Delhi} ~~54-61~~ 49-51
 Hong Kong 51-54 consul - economic sector
 Washington office of Chinese Affairs 54-56
 Russian ^{law} Long Training 1956-57
 Language School Washington & Cambridge 57-58
 Consul Officer Moscow June 59 - Sept 61
 Washington - Soviet-EE exchanges stuff
 managing Soviet scientific
 exchanges 61-62 1 1/2 yrs
 Spanish Long program
 Early 64 in charge of consulate in
 Balboa ^{Feb} 66
 66-68 D.C. INR on Soviet Military
 Affairs, various interagency
 intelligence panels
 UVA Law School 68-71

Any knowledge of U-2 in China
 Only aware of U-2 w/ Francis Gary Powers incident
 May 60

No knowledge of U-2 plane until shortly before
~~the~~ except for enigmatic mention at
 emb staff mtg some weeks before.

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(Warren Comm)
after May 64 - only discussion of assassination

post was talked to Abram Chayes
interviewed by FBI FILE?
flew back from Belva to testify for Warren
HSCA interview/deposition

Never at any time in his life
employed by CIA

Never carried out any action for CIA
but reporting was routed to CIA, attended
* inter-Agency mtgs at CIA, 1 consul in Belva
was CIA & he knew & supervised them

Dr Belva prepared biographic data cards
(thinks program run by CIA) *

No specific requests for intel.
but in Moscow - travel ^{observations} were reported
to them (mil attacks)

No ^{covert} ops work at all

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Moscow

Lived 2km from Moscow 20-30 min walk
loved to walk around city

Metropole would be a good fast 1/2 hr or
taxi/subway ride from Embassy

Basic layout of ground floor of Emb

7-8 story apartment bld.

cars drove through ^{arch} ~~arch~~ to internal courtyard

ground floor admin + consular other offices on
6, 7, 8 or 7, 8, 9, floors

1st rooms were admin offices staffed by
Amer + Soviet emp.

further back consular section Snyder,
McVick + one other officer there that
summer.

reception room w/ secretary then large office
shared by Snyder + McUrban.

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McVicker off desk near door, Snyder at
further end.

May 61 - offices divided w/ renovation
old bldg, high ceilings, richety elevator
top floors had Marine Guards ^{va} 21 elevator
stop for upper floors

Summer 59 desk in front staffed
by a wife of Amer officer

Not there when Oswald came in in Oct
but would have been there in Summer 61

Secretary - Verma Deane Brown
for most of the time he was there
wife of Stanley Brown - asst agi attache
there when Oswald came in in Oct 59

Marie Cheatham - 1st of secretaries

^{McV} Never worked in office except on ground
floor but went upstairs 1-2 times a day
to consult

Summer 61 ~~was~~ worked on project
in security bubble for a project
on distrust w/ Verne Deane Brown.

Conflict over office location.

McV led No other office in Emb.

3 top emb floors accessed only by 1 elevator
stop guarded by Marines

No metal objects allowed in security
bubble b/c of microwave saturation
(even belt buckles) saturation.

Snyder did not have an office on upper
floors.

Thompson on middle of 3 floors w/
access from elevator w/ DCM officers faced
main street Ed Freers, then John McSwain

Upper floor was military

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Joan Hallett - may have been one of
ladies manning the desk

Oliver Hallett - mil officer

Russell Longelle - knows only name

Edgar Rimsted - admin officer
(later chief admin officer for State)
actively involved in Exhibition

Known of ~~to~~ ^{specific} no CIA officers in Emb
that he was aware of

George Winters - econ section of emb.

John Abidjan - security officer for
most of the time McN was there

No security business w/ Longelle
no business w/ LHO discussed w/ Longelle

No sense or understanding of dealing w/
CIA officer in Moscow.

No personal sense of Snyder being CIA.

Snyder + McV - both consuls,

Snyder senior by date of appointment
(a few months)

Snyder - dealt w/ Americans & their problems

McV dealt w/ documentation of Russian
immigrants / visas etc.

McV - used Russian lang more
Duties overlapped.

Samuel G.

FNU Wise - 3rd Consular official there
summer of 59 as extra person to
help w/ Exhibition - vice consul
- did a lot of work at exhibit TDY

Does not know David Mark

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NARA 9-12 DATE 11-28-9

Any awareness of legal traveller program? NO

Ever asked to report on ^{U.S. or 3rd National} Travellers to emb.? NO

No work done for student.

No attention paid to mail sent to Emb.
Assumed open mail was opened by
Soviet services.

Soviet surveillance focused on Russian
speakers who were out in city

McV a bachelor liked to explore city, travelled
a lot sometimes alone. Early morning walks around
city.

Travelling alone was discouraged but
McV was allowed to do it because I
thought it was a good idea to learn country

Visitor's Book / log - doesn't remember
but desk ladies or receptionist might
have kept it. No responsibility for
examining book.

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NARA 9-12 DATE 11-28-9

LHO only made 1 visit to US embassy
in '59 - late Oct.

Fair had ended - wrapped up in late Sept.

Other defectors came in while fair still
going on.

Petrulli - darker Italian

Webster - blondish

Webster came into Emb more than once -
"I believe"

Emb. - very surprised & shocked by "this man
& his attitude".

Moscow hotels kept passport until
person checked out. But not absolutely sure.

How did LHO lose his passport?

I think
LHO left his passport at embassy on purpose -
& went out without it.

Did LHO speak to "bugs" in room?

Sounded as if he was saying things he had been told to say on citizenship & why he liked USSR.

Petrulli & Webster were angry & spontaneous. LHO was ~~plan~~ different. We tried to help him.

Possible memorandum to Chaps after assassination.
"Don't remember."

LHO - Amor Defector - emb file
in a secure file in consulate or in
classified file upstairs. [Memo for record went in]

Mr. Snyder would have gone to meet attack
w/ info that LHO had radar exp & wanted to
give it to Soviets.

LHO visit to emb - Oct 59

presentable but informal, maybe tie &
windbreaker, not formal, not trying to make
good impression at Emb.

None of 3 defectors were scruffy.

Receptionist ^{would have} ~~seen~~ ^{seen} him first - brought
him to Snyder's desk.

It is conceivable that Snyder took him
up but I don't remember that?

Snyder would have kept passport if it was
kept.

Praxilla McMillan

McV told her about LHO b/c she thought
she might help the situation in some way.
- find out his story, get more out of him -

POST
1959

Chronology of LHO contacts w/ US Emb

McV went skiing in Feb in Europe usually.

McV dealt w/ Russians wanting to marry
US citizens

Usually granted a visa unless significant
Comm Party participation.

Marina appeared pretty straightforward
young person.

Post assass - interview w/ Chayes &
FBI,

No pressure for particular story or
emphasis.

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NARA 9-12 DATE 11-28-9

Stan Brown - 1 trip

Paul & Smith - FSO

now staff only more work to be done.

RELEASED PER P.L. 102-526 (JFK ACT)
NARA 9-12 DATE 11-28-9

JUN-19-97 THU 9:37 MCUICKAR LAW OFFICE

8022537771

P. 01

JOHN A. McVICKAR
ATTORNEY AT LAW
~~THE RED-BRICK HOUSE~~ PO Box 1431
2780 MOUNTAIN ROAD
STOWE, VERMONT 05672

FYI

Phones: (802) 253-4488 Office
(802) 253-7416 Home &
~~(802) 253-7771~~ FAX
Admitted to State and
Federal Courts in Vermont,
California, and Hawaii

FAX MESSAGEPlease expedite at addressee office.FROM: FAX # (802) 253-⁷⁴¹⁶~~7771~~ in Stowe, Vermont.

Date: June 19, 1997 Time: 9.30 am

TO: Assassination Records Review BoardWashington, DC

Att: Dr. Michelle Combs

To: FAX No.: (202) 724-0457

Phone: () +0088

TEXT:

Dear Dr. Combs:

In connection with our appointment at 1 pm on June 30,
Monday, at the Federal Court House in Boston:

It is a 4 hour one-way drive from here to Boston. Is it possible that I could get reimbursed for a round-trip flight from Burlington, Vt. (near here) to Logan Airport in Boston, whence easy access to downtown Boston. I could then make a one day round-trip, for there are flights back as late as 9.30 pm, leaving plenty of time for our interview that afternoon.

Alternatively, would you reimburse for mileage, parking, and one overnight in a motel?

None of the above is controlling as far as I am concerned, but it would be helpful. It would also be saving you some additional travel costs and trouble.

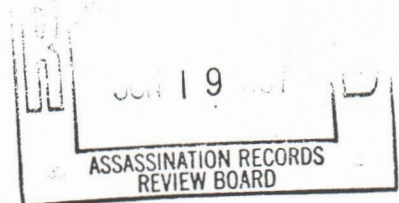
I will also hear from you as to the room we will meet in at the Court House, and any other details.

Sincerely,

John McVickar

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: The above text from a law office contains CONFIDENTIAL information which is legally PRIVILEGED. ANY disclosure, copying, dissemination, or use of the contents by other than the addressee is STRICTLY PROHIBITED. If you have received this FAX in error, please notify us immediately by phone, calling collect.

NOTE: The FAX unit in this transmitting office is a SHARP FO-240, set for automatic reception 24 hours a day. Personal response is usually available 8.30 am--4.30 pm weekdays.



RELEASED PER P.L. 102-526 (JFK ACT)

NARA 9-12 DATE 11-28-9

JOHN A. McVICKAR LAW OFFICE

8022537771

P. 02

JOHN A. McVICKAR

ATTORNEY AT LAW

PO BOX 1431

= CORRECT MAILING ADDRESS

STOWE, VERMONT 05672

Phones: (802) 253-4488 Office ←

(802) 253-7416 Home

(802) 253-7416 FAX ←

Admitted to State and
Federal Courts in Vermont,
California, and Hawaii

Dr. T. Jeremy Gunn
General Counsel
Assassination Records / Review Board
600 E St. NW 2nd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20530

April 27, 1997

Dear Dr. Gunn:

I have just received your letter of April 21 and enclosures. (Please note my change of mailing address reflected in the above letterhead.)

I will be very glad to cooperate with your staff with a further interview regarding anything I might know about the JFK assassination or anything else that might be relevant. I cannot now think of anything I might know that would be relevant and would relate to anything that should not be properly made public at this time. While in the Foreign Service I did have various clearances, but I can't think of anything that would be compromised by a full discussion of anything I might know on this subject, and I am sure that nearly everything I might have to offer is somehow already reflected in the records of the Warren and House Select Committee investigations.

So I am at your service and convenience. I could drive down to Boston easily enough, but especially if an over-night were involved I would appreciate reimbursement of expenses. Or, your team might want to come up to Stowe. In the latter case I can give you some helpful information. Off hand, the inns I would recommend here are the Commodore Inn, the Town & Country Motor Lodge, or the Golden Eagle Resort. I know the owner-managers of all three well and they are fine establishments. Between now and, say, mid-June there should be no problem about getting reservations. The drive from Boston up I-93 and I-89 is easy and can be done in about 4 hours.

Your staff can phone me on (802) 253-4488, and can leave a message on the voice-mail system if I happen not to be in. I will be glad to be as helpful as possible.

Sincerely yours,

JAMCV/mv

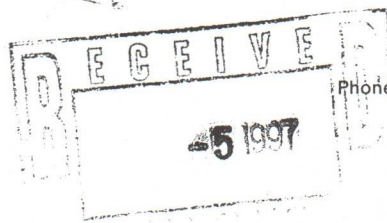
John A. McVickar

P.S. I have of course been interviewed as well by various book authors and investigative reporters over the years and can provide information on that as required in due course.

RELEASED PER P.L. 102-526 (JFK ACT)

NARA 9-12 DATE 11-28-9

JOHN A. McVICKAR
ATTORNEY AT LAW
PO BOX 1431 = CORRECT MAILING ADDRESS
STOWE, VERMONT 05672



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Sincerely yours,

JAMcV/mv

John A. McVickar

P.S. I have of course been interviewed as well by various book authors and investigative reporters over the years and can provide information on that as required in due course.

RELEASED PER P.L. 102-526 (JFK ACT)

NARA 9-12 DATE 11-28-9

November 12, 1997

PO Box 305
(99 5th St.)
Cayucos, California 93430
Ph: (805) 995-3353
(no ans.svce.yet)

Dr. Michelle Coombs
Senior Analyst
Assassination Records Review Board
600 E St. NW 2nd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Dr. Coombs:

Further to our conversations and coorespondence, especially my letter and enclosures dated Sept. 18, 1997, your acknowledgement of that, and my note of Oct. 1'97 regarding my move to California:

I made the trip by car, a well-loaded stationwagon, and after some searching have finally found a suitable and affordable apartment here in the coastal town of Cayucos, a part of Morro Bay and a suburb of the city of San Luis Obispo. I now have the above phone number and PO Box.

At your discretion and convenience you may wish to mail me correspondence and enclosures to the PO Box. As I have indicated earlier, from my point of view it is up to you and your Board to decide whether or not the materials I sent you are relevant to your purposes. If so, you may keep all of them, including the Second Affidavit I sent you in July, or any relevant part of the materials you wish to. I would prefer, however, that you send me copies of any documents that you might decide to retain. (I had sent you my entire file on the matter.) On the other hand, if you feel that the materials are not relevant to your purposes, you may wish to return all of the documents, including my Second Affidavit, to me. I myself have no real basis for an opinion as to whether the documents that I sent you are relevant to your purposes or not. It has just seemed to me possible that they were--in view of my role, and the timing, and the seemingly (to me) special treatment that I received. If you think they might be relevant, I am willing to assume any personal risks that might be involved in the public interest--although it is not my intent to embarrass or cause problems to any individuals or agencies of the Government. I have been impressed with your and Dr. Gunn's sensible and professional attitudes, so I put my trust in your best judgement.

Sincerely and appreciatively yours,

John A. McVickar

PS To minimize curiosity, I would suggest using "ARRB" on the return address on any materials or correspondence you may send me. Thanks. JMcV.

8 1997

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

ASSASSINATION RECORDS
REVIEW BOARDOct. 1, 1997
PO Box 1431
Stowe, Vt. 05672

Dr. Michelle Coombs
Senior Analyst
Assassination Records Review Board
600 E St. NW 2nd Floor
Washington DC 20530

Dear Dr. Coombs:

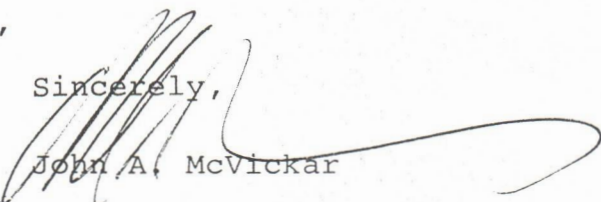
As I indicated on the phone the other day I have now just returned from my Land Trust Alliance conference in Savannah, and I am scheduled to start my drive West in the next few days. (My phone, (802) 253-4488, is to be disconnected as of Oct. 6.) So please do not send me any documents until I provide you with another address, which I will do promptly as soon as that is firm--most probably in California in a few weeks--God willing!

I have to say that I am chagrined and saddened by having read that file I sent you, after about 20+ years. It seems to me that the Security branch of the State Department worked for at least a year, and perhaps more, to try to make a case about me as a homosexual, and perhaps also disloyal. I can't imagine how I deserved that "attention". That record, at least, totally disregards a pretty creditable record of public service, in four hardship Foreign Service posts and four important, though working level, jobs in Washington. What can I say? I must have made some people very angry--or something. But that is now bureaucratic history I gather, and I only want the record that I still have to be brought to your attention, in case it might be relevant to your purposes.

Thank you again for your attention.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,


John A. McVickar

JAMCV/mv

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prompt

anada.



Foreign Service List

Including field staffs of
U. S. Foreign Service
U. S. Information Agency
International Cooperation
Administration
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BRANXSD Department of Agriculture

FILE COPY
PLEASE RETURN

OCTOBER

1 9 5 9

THE

5, D.C.

RELEASED PER P.L. 102-576 (JFK ACT)

NARA 9-12 DATE 11-28-9

10/59

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA—UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

Capetown, Cape Province (CG)

Boykin, Samuel D., cons. gen. (O-2) Sept. 22, 57
Andersen, Henry T., cons. (O-5) Sept. 21, 57
Cunningham, Robert H., cons. (R-3) Feb. 9, 58
Smolik, Michael, v. c. (O-6) June 29, 58

Durban, Natal (C)

Hall, Claude H., Jr., cons. (O-3) Oct. 15, 54
Bentley, John J., cons. (O-5) May 4, 58
Rickard, Donald C., v. c. (R-6) Aug. 10, 58

Johannesburg, Transvaal (CG)

Beach, Arthur E., cons. gen. (O-2) Oct. 6, 57
Bramson, Bernard A., cons. (O-2) Jan. 12, 57
Carlucci, Frank C. III, v. c. (O-6) Oct. 6, 57
Crain, Mary G., v. c. (O-6) Feb. 8, 59
Heubeck, N. Hunt, v. c. (O-6) June 15, 58
Mullin, Harry J., Jr., v. c. (O-6) July 27, 58
von Lossberg, Victor E., cons. (O-3) May 7, 55

(USIA)

Harrison, William M., info. off.; cons. (S-5)

Port Elizabeth, Cape Province (C)

Ralston, Donald M., cons. (O-3) Oct. 5, 58
McClellan, Margaret J., cons. (O-5) May 17, 59

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST
REPUBLICS

Moscow (E)

Thompson, Llewellyn E., A. E. and P. (CM) June 3, 57
Freers, Edward L., min-couns.* (O-1) May 31, 59
Bowden, Lewis W., 2d sec.; cons.; pol. off. (O-5) June 29, 58
Charlott, Theodore, att.; bldg. supt. (S-7) Oct. 20, 57
Corinha, Mary G., pers. asst. (S-9) Sept. 22, 57
Dugan, Patricia A., sec-archivist (S-9) July 12, 59
Gagnon, Constance M., sec-archivist (S-9) July 8, 57
Harmstone, Richard C., 2d sec.; cons.; ec. off. (O-5) July 14, 57
Horbaly, William, att.; ec. off. (R-3) Apr. 12, 59
Hurwitz, Edward, 3d sec.; staff aide (O-7) May 18, 58
Johnson, Gordon D., 2d sec.; cons.; g. s. o. (O-5) Sept. 8, 57
Jones, Ralph A., 1st sec.; pol. off. (O-3) May 4, 58
Klosson, Boris H., 1st sec.; pol. off. (O-2) July 26, 59
Mark, David E., 1st sec.; cons.; pol. off. (O-3) June 16, 57
McVickar, John A., 2d sec.; cons.; cons. off. (O-5) June 28, 59
Meehan, Francis J., 2d sec.; pol. off. (O-4) June 28, 59
Miller, Clorene A., 2d sec.; d. o. (O-5) Nov. 17, 57
Morton, Byron B., Jr., 2d sec.; p. p. off. (O-6) June 29, 58
Owen, Robert I., 1st sec.; pol. off. (O-3) Nov. 2, 58
Phelps, William Woodrow, att.; coms-rec. supvr. (S-9) June 29, 58
Pitman, Chalmer E., att.; coms. tech. (S-8) May 19, 57
Ramsey, James A., 2d sec.; ec. off. (O-5) June 14, 59
Rimestad, Idar, 1st sec.; cons.; adm. off. (O-3) Dec. 1, 57
Rothenberg, Morris, 2d sec.; pol. off. (O-4) Aug. 25, 57
Scanlan, John D., 3d sec.; v. c.; gen. sers. asst. (O-7) June 29, 58
Smith, Paul A., Jr., 2d sec.; publ. proc. off. (O-5) May 3, 59
Snyder, Richard E., 2d sec.; cons.; cons. off. (O-4) June 28, 59
Toumanoff, Vladimir I., 2d sec.; pol. off. (O-4) Aug. 24, 58
Tuch, Hans N., att.; publ. off. (R-4) June 2, 58
Washenko, Steve, 2d sec.; ec. off. (R-6) Nov. 14, 57
Wetzork, Harry J., 2d sec.; cons.; b. f. off. (O-4) Oct. 20, 57
Winters, George P., Jr., att.; ec. off. (R-4) June 23, 58
Young, Jennie B., clk-steno. (S-9) Dec. 29, 57

(AA, NA, & Air A)

Hoffman, Col. Theodore F., army att. Jan. 23, 59
Munson, Capt. John J., n. a./n. a. a. Aug. 14, 58
Kirton, Col. Edwin M., air att. May 26, 58
Evans-Smith, Lt. Col. William, asst. army att. Aug. 18, 58
Mitchell, Lt. Col. Earle F., asst. army att. Jan. 12, 59

Wilson, Maj. Charles A., Jr., asst. army att. Aug. 18, 58
Knipe, Capt. Willis H., asst. army att. Mar. 18, 59
Dulacki, Lt. Col. Leo J., a. n. a./a. n. a. a. May 2, 58
Adams, Lt. Cmdr. Paul A., a. n. a./a. n. a. a. Nov. 25, 57
Hallett, Lt. Cmdr. Oliver S., a. n. a./a. n. a. a. Sept. 17, 58
Wootten, Maj. Edward, asst. air att. Nov. 13, 58
Pearsall, Capt. Kenneth F., asst. air att. Jan. 23, 58
Smith, Capt. Harry B., asst. air att. Apr. 11, 58
McDonald, Capt. Irving T., Jr., asst. air att. Nov. 12, 58
Martin, Capt. Donald C., asst. air att. Feb. 18, 59

(USIA)

Brady, Leslie S., couns. cult. aff. (R-1)

UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC¹

Cairo (E)

Hare, Raymond A., A. E. and P. (CM)² Aug. 14, 58
Anschuetz, Norbert L., min-couns.* (O-2) Feb. 9, 58
Achuff, June E., sec. (S-9) Feb. 24, 57
Atkins, Edwin F., pol. off. (R-6) Jan. 6, 55
Bakey, Charles R., Jr., att.; g. s. o. (R-5) Mar. 7, 57
Barrett, Raymond J., 2d sec.; pol. off. (O-5) June 23, 59
Barrow, John R., 2d sec.; pol. off. (O-4) Mar. 23, 58
Bayer, Olga H., nurse (S-9) June 23, 59
Beckman, Charles J., 2d sec.; pol. off. (R-5) Aug. 8, 57
Boland, Dorothy J., pers. asst. (S-8) Mar. 16, 58
Boughan, Mary A., 3d sec.; v. c.; disb. off. (O-7) Mar. 22, 59
Chapman, William W., Jr., couns. adm. (O-2) Feb. 8, 58
Close, Raymond H., asst. att.; pol. off. (R-7) June 23, 59
Cusick, Charles J., asst. att.; pol. off. (R-6) Dec. 29, 57
Firth, Gordon R., 2d sec.; cons.; cons. off. (O-5) June 30, 56
Fleischer, Hugh W., 2d sec.; pol. off. (R-4) Apr. 4, 58
Forcey, Jack M., 3d sec.; ec. off. (R-7) Oct. 6, 57
Goodwin, Joseph C., att.; pol. off. (R-4) Aug. 9, 59
Johnson, Melvin S., pol. off. (R-6) Oct. 6, 55
Kane, Edward R. M., asst. att.; pol. off. (R-7) Nov. 15, 57
Lewis, Anthony E., att.; p. p. off. (R-4) Nov. 3, 57
Manch, Martin G., 1st sec.; cons.; b. f. off. (O-3) Feb. 13, 56
Matsui, Victor M., att.; pol. off. (R-5) July 26, 59
McDonough, Ruth T., asst. att.; nurse (S-7) Mar. 10, 57
O'Sheel, Patrick, 1st sec.; cons.; pol. off. (O-3) June 16, 57
Peters, T. Howard, cml. att. (R-4) July 26, 59
Plowman, Janice, 2d sec.; cons.; pers. off. (O-5) Mar. 23, 57
Purcell, Duncan, pol. off. (R-5) July 1, 59
Ross, Claude G., couns. for pol. aff. (O-2) July 14, 57
Sartorius, James R., 3d sec.; v. c. (O-8) Apr. 6, 58
Scott, David, 2d sec.; pol. off. (O-4) May 31, 59
Shaffer, John G., Jr., 2d sec.; pol. off. (R-4) Feb. 9, 59
Skrock, Gerald M., coms. asst. (S-9) Dec. 4, 58
Snider, Fred C., att.; engr. (S-3) June 3, 56
Sturgill, Robert G., 2d sec.; cons.; p. c. o. (O-5) Aug. 25, 57
Tinny, John D., 2d sec.; v. c.; asst. g. s. o. (O-6) Feb. 8, 59
Unumb, John A., 2d sec.; pol. off. (R-6) Feb. 9, 58
Whitman, Roswell H., couns. for ec. aff. (O-2) Jan. 26, 58
Widdifield, Edward H., 2d sec.; cons. (O-4) Sept. 7, 57

(AA, NA, & Air A)

Pope, Col. Phillip H., army att. Dec. 23, 58
Scurria, Capt. Norman V., n. a./n. a. a. Dec. 12, 58
Bechtel, Col. Howard J., air att. Apr. 16, 59
Fredericks, Maj. Edgar J., asst. army att. Apr. 18, 58
Dale, Maj. Allan C., asst. army att. Apr. 29, 59
Parish, Capt. John V., Jr., asst. army att. Dec. 13, 57

¹ The unification of Egypt and Syria was proclaimed by the United Arab Republic following the plebiscite conducted in Egypt and Syria on February 21, 1958. The U. S. Government extended recognition to the Government of the United Arab Republic on February 25, 1958.
² Accredited also as E.E. and M.P. to Yemen.

RELEASED PER P.L. 102-526 (JFK ACT)
NARA 9-12 DATE 11-28-9**MEMORANDUM**

March 26, 1997

To: Michelle Combs
cc - Jeremy Gunn

From: Joe Freeman

Subject: Report of March 25, 1997 Interview with Idar Rimestad

Introduction and Summary

I met with Mr. Rimestad at his home in Fountain Hill, Arizona, on the afternoon of March 25th, 1997. The interview commenced at approximately 3:25 PM and ended at approximately 4:10 PM. Mr. Rimestad, 80 years of age, is mentally alert but his eyesight has failed him, and he was not able to review any documents during our interview (lists of embassy personnel or maps of the layout of the embassy, for instance). While alert and articulate, his memory of the period in question is, as might be expected, uneven. Disappointingly, he could not recall either Richard Snyder or John McVickar. He could therefore provide no insight as to the duties of these two men, or the location of their offices. Nor did he have pre-assassination knowledge of Lee Harvey Oswald's visit to the Moscow embassy. He did, however, provide a lead as to someone who might have information of value. Mr. Rimestad indicated that his chief of general services was a man named T.J. "Ted" Chariott [there is a Theodore Charriot listed as building superintendent at the embassy on the 10/59 Foreign Service list]. Mr. Chariott is presently living in Florida, at 407/496-7019. Mr. Rimestad stated that he had spoken to Mr. Chariott between his (Mr. Rimestad's) initial phone call with me (about 1:00 PM yesterday) and our interview later yesterday afternoon. Mr. Rimestad stated that Mr. Chariott had told him that he, also, had been unaware of Oswald's visit to the embassy prior to the assassination, but Mr. Rimestad added that Mr. Chariott would be likely to have a greater command/better memory of who was in what office, how many desks each office had, etc. While Mr. Rimestad had no recollection of Snyder or McVickar, he did identify two other members of the embassy staff as employees of CIA (see below), though he was unaware of the identity of the Chief of Station.

Mr. Rimestad is relocating to San Diego on April 4th (next Friday). He did not have either his new address or phone number available to him yesterday, but said if we wanted to talk with him again, we should send him a letter at his current address and that it would be forwarded to him at his new abode (his new number may be available from information in San Diego after next week, as well).

Memorandum For File

July 2, 1997

Written By: Michelle Combs

Subject: Interview with John Anthony McVickar

On June 30, 1997, John Anthony McVickar, a consular officer at the American Embassy in Moscow from June 1959 to September 1961, was interviewed at the Federal District Courthouse in Boston, MA by Jeremy Gunn, Michelle Combs, and Tom Samoluk. This interview, of approximately two and a half hours, was recorded on two audio tapes labeled John McVickar, Interview with ARRB, 30 June 1997. Mr. McVickar also submitted a six page affidavit and a drawing of the ground floor of the American Embassy in Moscow to the ARRB. This memorandum roughly follows the order on the audio tape.

- Mr. McVickar outlined his professional career in the Department of State. He stated that never, at any time in his life, had he been employed by the Central Intelligence Agency. Mr. McVickar noted that he was never asked to carry out any action; nor, to his knowledge, did he ever participate in any operational activity for the CIA. Mr. McVickar said that he assumed some of his reporting from Moscow and other embassy posts was routed to the CIA through normal channels.
- When asked if he had any knowledge of the U-2 flights over the USSR and China prior to 1960, Mr. McVickar said he had no real knowledge of the U-2 plane until the Francis Gary Powers incident in May 1960. He recalled and enigmatic mention at an embassy staff meeting some weeks prior to the Powers incident which he believes related to the U-2.
- Mr. McVickar explained that in 1959 and 1960 he shared an office on the first floor of the embassy with Vice Consul Richard Snyder. He noted that he never had an office upstairs on the non-public secure floors of the embassy though he did visit various offices upstairs one or two time a day for consultations. He also reported that Mr. Snyder never had an office on the upper floors. Due to renovations of the ground floor of the embassy, he and Mr. Snyder had separate offices in 1961 when Lee Harvey Oswald returned to the embassy with Marina Oswald seeking help returning to the United States.

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- In describing his tour in Moscow, Mr. McVickar reported that he lived 2 km from the embassy and usually walked to work in 20-30 minutes. He noted that he loved to walk around the city and frequently explored different sections of the city on weekends. Mr. McVickar observed that the Metropole Hotel was a good fast half-hour walk or a subway/ taxi ride from the embassy.
- Mr. McVickar discussed the basic layout of the ground floor of the embassy. He noted that in the summer of 1959, there was a reception desk in the embassy lobby which was staffed by an American wife whose name he did not remember. He does not believe this desk would have been there in October when Oswald arrived as it was only in place and staffed during the summer.
- Marie Cheatham was the first of the consular secretaries Mr. McVickar remembered. He said that Mrs. Verna Deane Brown, the wife of the Assistant Agricultural Attache was the consular secretary for most of the time he was in Moscow. Mr. McVickar did not remember when Ms. Cheatham was replaced by Mrs. Brown.
- Mr. McVickar described the general layout of the embassy. He described the building as having eight or nine floors. The top three secure area floor were accessed by one elevator stop on the middle of the three floors. Marine guards controlled the access to the upper floors at the point where the elevator stopped. Mr. McVickar said that the offices of Ambassador Llewellyn Thompson and the Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) Edward Freers were on the middle of the three floors. The offices of the military attaches were located on the top floor. The secure "bubble" was also on one of these three floors.
- On being shown the October 1959 diplomatic list for Moscow, Mr. McVickar had only vague memories of Joan Hallett as one of the ladies manning the reception desk. He remembered Oliver Hallett as a military officer. He remembered Security Officer Russell Langelles only by name and never discussed Lee Harvey Oswald with him. Mr. McVickar remembered Idar Rimestad as the admin officer who was actively involved in the American Exhibition at Sololniki Park in the summer of 1959. He knew George Winters as an economic attache and John Abidian as the security officer for most of the time he was in Moscow.
- Mr. McVickar knew of no specific CIA officers in the embassy. He had no sense or understanding of dealing with any CIA officer in Moscow. He also had no personal sense or information that Mr. Snyder might have worked for the CIA.
- In describing his work relationship with Mr Snyder, Mr McVickar said that while

they were both consuls, Mr. Snyder was the senior by date of appointment (by a few months). While their duties overlapped, Mr. McVickar said he dealt mostly with Russians, especially on immigration and visa issues, because he was more fluent in the language. Mr. Snyder dealt more with Americans, both visiting and resident, and their problems. Mr. McVickar noted that during the summer of 1959, a third consular officer, with the last name of Wise, was sent to the embassy as an extra person to help with the American Exhibition at Sololniki Park. Mr. McVickar agreed that this consular officer was probably Samuel G. Wise who was later stationed in Moscow.

- When asked, Mr. McVickar said he had no awareness of the legal traveler program. He said he had never been asked to report in any way on a U.S. or third national visitor to the embassy. He had never done any work for or had any particular contact with any American students in the Soviet Union.
- In describing life in Moscow, Mr. McVickar noted that no special attention was paid to mail sent to the Embassy, but that it was assumed that all mail was opened by the Soviet security services. He stated that Soviet surveillance focused on Russian speakers, particularly those who were out in the city a great deal. McVickar said he drew attention because he was a bachelor and he liked to explore the city on early morning walks. He also traveled a great deal and, though traveling alone was discouraged by the embassy, he did it because he thought it was a good idea to learn the country.
- Mr. McVickar had no memory of a visitors book or log in the embassy but thought the desk ladies or the secretary might have kept one. He had no responsibility for examining any such book.
- McVickar said he remembered Oswald making only one visit to the American Embassy in 1959, in late October after the fair (the American Exhibition) had ended. McVickar remembered Oswald's visit because he said the embassy was very surprised and shocked by this man and his attitude. He noted that the two earlier defectors had come in while the fair was still ongoing. He remembered Nicholas Petrulli as darker, Italian and Robert Webster as blondish. Mr. McVickar said he believed that Webster had come into the embassy more than once.
- When asked how Oswald could have had his passport at the embassy in 1959, Mr. McVickar said the custom was for Moscow hotels to hold a person's passport until that person checked out. He thought that Oswald had left his passport at the embassy when he stormed out after speaking with Snyder.

- McVickar remembered that in speaking to Snyder in 1959, Oswald sounded as if he was saying thing he had been told to say on why he wanted to renounce his citizenship and why he liked the USSR. McVickar said that Petrulli and Webster appeared to be angry and spontaneous in renouncing their citizenship but that Oswald was different. McVickar said that Snyder tried to help Oswald.
- McVickar noted that Snyder would have gone to the military attaches with the information that Oswald had radar experience and wanted to give it to the Soviets.
- Asked to describe Oswald's appearance at the embassy in 1959, McVickar described him as presentable but informal, dressed in maybe a tie and a windbreaker, not formal. He said Oswald was not trying to make a good impression at the embassy. McVickar said that none of the three defectors were scruffy.
- McVickar said that the receptionist would have been the first person to see Oswald in 1959 and would have brought him to Snyder's desk. He said it was conceivable that Snyder could have taken Oswald upstairs to the secure part of the embassy but that he did not remember Snyder doing so. McVickar noted that Snyder would have kept Oswald's passport if it was left at the embassy.
- McVickar said he told Priscilla McMillan about Oswald's visit to the embassy because he thought she might help the situation in some way. He said he thought McMillan might find out Oswald's "story" or get more out of him.
- McVickar said that he usually dealt with the issue of Russian wanting to marry US citizens and that US visas were usually granted to the new spouse unless there was evidence of significant Communist Party participation. McVickar remembered Marina Oswald as a pretty straightforward young person.
- In discussing his testimony before the Warren Commission, McVickar said he had been interviewed by the State Department lawyer Abram Chayes and by the FBI. McVickar said he was never put under any pressure to tell a particular story or to give any information a particular emphasis.

RELEASED PER P.L. 102-526 (JFK ACT)

NARA 9-12 DATE 11-28-9

FROM: John A. McVickar of Stowe, Vermont.

TO: The Assassination Records Review Board
Washington, D.C.

AFFIDAVIT & STATEMENT

The purpose of this Affidavit and Statement is to summarize for the historical record my memories of contacts with Lee Harvey Oswald and his wife, Marina Oswald, and my related impressions.

My limited involvement with the entire matter was in three general time periods:

I. When Lee Harvey Oswald (herein "LHO") arrived at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, where I was serving as U.S. Consul, in late October, 1959, and a few subsequent events in November of that year.

II. When LHO and his new Russian wife, Marina, visited the Embassy in the summer of 1961, including my interview of her for an immigration visa to accompany him on his return to the U.S. (which occurred in 1962 after I had left Moscow).

III. Subsequent to the JFK assassination, my interviews with the FBI (Nov. and Dec., 1963), by the Warren Commission (May, 1964), by the U.S. House Select Committee on Assassinations (about 1978), and by various investigative writers, including Edward Jay Epstein and Anthony Summers, in the years since.

I

On a day in late October, 1959 (perhaps Oct. 31), I was at my desk in the large office room on the ground floor of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, the room that I shared then with the other U.S. Consul, Richard Snyder, senior to me. LHO came in to the Embassy, I believe without an appointment, and was shown to the consular section where he was interviewed by Mr. Snyder. From my desk across the room I heard the conversation.

I was impressed with the unusual nature of LHO's statements, behavior, and attitude. As I recall it, he demanded that his U.S. citizenship be immediately revoked, and he said that, as a discharged U.S. Marine enlisted man, with classified information learned as an aviation radio/radar operator, he intended to provide such information to Soviet officials. LHO explained to Snyder, using Marxist propaganda terms, that he thought that the U.S.A. was a socially unjust, evil, "imperialist" power, whose intentions for "world domination" he intended to help thwart (or some such language).

At the time it seemed to me that LHO was reciting propaganda formulas, as well as phrases used in connection with his demand for citizenship renunciation, that he perhaps did not fully understand himself, and that he may have been coached by persons unknown. LHO also seemed to demonstrate a hostile and antagonistic attitude that could not have been provoked by his reception at the Embassy, including Mr. Snyder's quiet and patient attitude. After LHO left the office, we who heard

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him, and those who heard about it from us, were quite shocked at his attitude and statements.

I had been at the Embassy in Moscow since June of that year (1959), and by then we had experienced at least two other prior self-proclaimed "defectors". That was the summer of the 1959 U.S. Exhibition at Sokolniki Park in Moscow. There were a good many Americans working at the site, staying for a few weeks in Moscow. The great contrast in the atmosphere between the heavily propagandistic and totalitarian Soviet Union and the relative freedoms and rule of law of our own country seemed to have a disorienting effect on various visiting Americans. Indeed it made living and working there a life-time adventure for all of us at the Embassy.

We were all under evident heavy surveillance by the KGB, sometimes by teams of agents. We knew that we were routinely subject to electronic "bugging" in our apartments and perhaps in our offices as well. And there was the continual risk of KGB "provocations" and traps of various kinds. The otherwise competent and pleasant Russian employees of the Embassy were known to be fully cooperating with the Soviet secret police. We learned later that our offices had been saturated with micro-wave transmissions as an eavesdropping technique. The pressures on us were considerable.

The two American "defectors" who came to our attention prior to LHO both, I recall, had some connection with the American Exhibition. Although they both eventually returned to the U.S. (I understand), they for a while entertained the idea of staying in the U.S.S.R.--perhaps with some encouragement by the KGB, which would not have been unusual. I don't recall the details of those cases, but I remember the names, Petrulli and Webster.

But even with that prior experience of "defectors", LHO seemed to us an extreme and unusual case. For one thing, he had apparently been in Russia only a short time (by his statements), whereas the prior two had been in Moscow for some weeks, with time to be affected by the general atmosphere, and perhaps by the attentions of the KGB. The earlier two, as I remember them, had seemed rather disoriented and confused, while LHO seemed, or affected to be, decided, angry, and determined.

I believe that I may have made some memo of the event at the time. And, after LHO left the Embassy that day (not to return until the summer of 1961), I was asked to deliver a letter we had received for him, from, I believe, a relative, to his hotel room. I attempted to do that at his room number in the Hotel Metropole in downtown Moscow. But he was not in at the time, and I left the letter with the "dezhurnaya"--the woman employee of the hotel in charge of that floor, who had a desk by the elevator. We all assumed such employees to be cooperating with the KGB.

I had also told a U.S. correspondent resident in Moscow, Priscilla Johnson (now McMillan), then working for the North

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American Newspaper Alliance (NANA), about the case, with the hope that she might get to talk to him and perhaps bring him to some reality about his situation, and that she might learn more about him as a member of the press. I believe that she did in fact interview him before he left Moscow, ostensibly for Minsk in about January, 1960. I don't recall that I had anything further to do with LHO in 1959.

II

At the Embassy we had heard little or nothing about LHO during 1960, although we may have heard that he was in Minsk. So it came as a surprise to us in the spring of 1961 when the Embassy received a letter from him, from Minsk, stating that he had recently married a Russian girl, and that he now wanted to return to the U.S. with his wife. (I don't recall the details of his letter or the dates involved. It is probably in the record.)

In mid-July, 1961, LHO came to Moscow with his wife, Marina, and I interviewed her for an immigration visa to accompany him to the U.S. LHO was at the same time interviewed again by Consul Snyder in connection with his application to renew his U.S. passport for return to America. (In early 1961 the large room that I had earlier shared with Snyder was fully partitioned, and we were now working in two separate offices, so I did not hear that conversation with LHO.)

I don't now recall much about my interview with Marina Oswald. I would have asked her about her personal history, including employment and any connections with the Soviet Communist Party or any of its organs, such as the Young Communist League (the Komsomol). I would have examined her documents, such as birth certificate, marriage certificate, passports (Soviet internal and external). (I believe that the record contains my notes of that interview as well as my report to Washington.) As I recall it, it seemed to me that her political connections were probably minimal, and I recommended favorably on her immigration to the U.S. as the wife of an American citizen.

In September, 1961, after 2½ years in Moscow, I was reassigned to the State Department in Washington, and I had nothing further to do with the matter until after the JFK assassination in November, 1963. I understand that the Oswalds returned to the U.S. together in 1962, as arranged by the then officers of the Embassy consular section.

III

On the evening of the day of the JFK assassination, I was walking in the Georgetown section of Washington, DC, somewhat stunned by the day's events. I stopped by friends who had a TV. LHO's face was shown on the tube as the suspected assassin,

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and it was with shock that I recognized who he was. I promptly phoned a friend who was the U.S.S.R. desk officer at the State Department.

Very soon afterwards I recall being interviewed by Abram Chayes, of the State Department's legal staff, and later by the FBI. I was reassigned from Washington as U.S. Consul in Bolivia in January, 1964, and I was flown back to Washington in May, 1964 to testify before the Warren Commission. Much later I was again deposed in Stowe, Vermont by representatives of the U.S. House Select Committee on Assassinations, I believe in about 1978. I was also interviewed by two investigative writers over the years--by Edward Jay Epstein in San Francisco in about 1976, and by Anthony Summers in London in 1981 and, I think, earlier as well. Over the years I have had occasional telephone calls from other writers, TV producers, and journalists, inquiring about my memories of the matter.

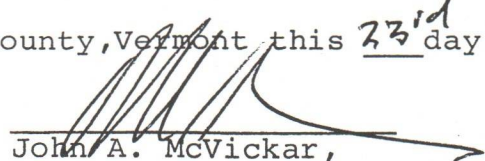
The above summarizes my personal contacts with and observations of LHO and his wife, and my related statements after the assassination.

Based on my own foreign travel, on my experiences in the U.S.S.R., and as a Foreign Service specialist in Soviet affairs, and in light of what I have subsequently understood about LHO's travel to the USSR in the fall of 1959, I have the following further comment:

It has seemed to me unusual that, LHO, as a young U.S. Marine enlisted man, just discharged, would have been able, acting and traveling alone and without assistance or advice, to have: voyaged by sea from New Orleans to France; and then, by air to Helsinki, Finland, via England (whence he may have made a side trip to Sweden); and then, unusually quickly, to have obtained a Soviet tourist visa; and then to have traveled to Moscow by train. All of that seems to have taken place between early September, 1959 when he was discharged from the Marine Corps (I think in California), and Mid-October, 1959, when he supposedly arrived in Moscow. And all supposedly on his own initiative, using his own funds, presumably saved from his enlisted man's pay. But I have no theories as to just how all that may have happened, or whom else may have been involved. I may have made an earlier note or memo as to that observation.

The above is a summary of my own personal memories of LHO and his wife, and my relevant impressions then and since, offered for the purposes of the Assassination Records Review Board.

Dated at Stowe, Lamoille County, Vermont this 23rd day of June, 1997.


John A. McVickar,
Attorney at Law and
U.S. Foreign Service Officer, ret'd.

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STATE OF VERMONT
 COUNTY OF LAMOILLE SS:

Before me, at Stowe, on this date, came John A. McVickar, Attorney of Stowe, Vermont, personally known to me, and he acknowledged, subscribed and swore to the above document as his own true act and deed.

June 23, 1997.

Judy Dornier
 NOTARY PUBLIC

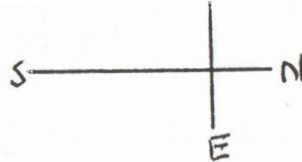
SEAL

My commission expires: Feb. 10, 1999

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[Handwritten signature]

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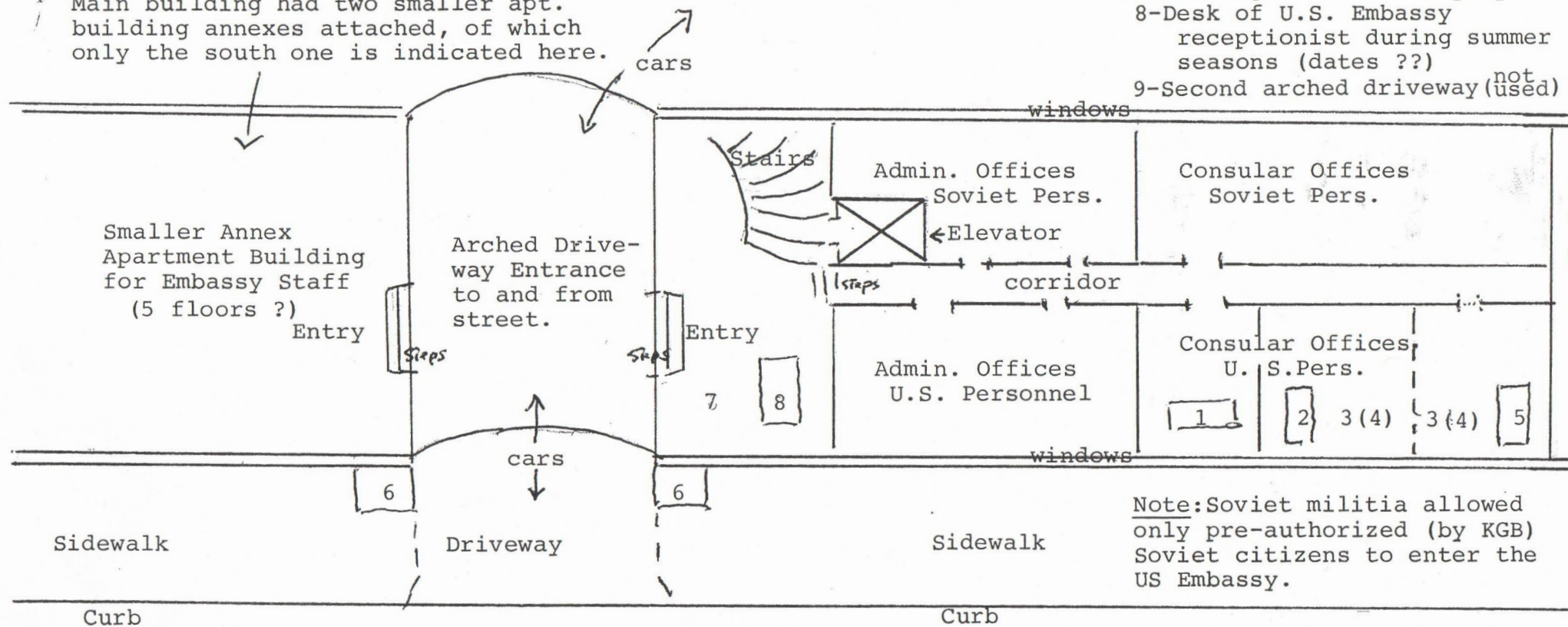
Embassy
Cafeteria

FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE U.S. ASSASSINATION
RECORDS REVIEW BOARD: ROUGH SKETCH FROM
MEMORY OF THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE U.S.
EMBASSY IN MOSCOW, USSR as of 1959-61,
by John A. McVickar, then a U.S. Consul.
dated June 30, 1997

Motor Pool and Parking Lot
(including some garages)

Note: Main Embassy building had 8-9
floors, of which the top 3 were
"classified" offices protected 24 hrs
by Marine Guards, with only one
elevator stop in the middle floor.
Main building had two smaller apt.
building annexes attached, of which
only the south one is indicated here.

- 1-Desk of U.S. Consular Secretary
- 2-Desk of John McVickar '59-'61
- 3-Large Consular Office
6/59 to about 4/61
- 4-Smaller offices after
partition installed
about 4/61--9/61+
- 5-Desk of Richard Snyder '59-'61
- 6-Soviet militia sentry boxes
- 7-Waiting area in Entryway
- 8-Desk of U.S. Embassy
receptionist during summer
seasons (dates ??)
- 9-Second arched driveway (not used)



Chaikovsky St. (Ulitsa Chaikovskova)
(portion of second ring road around
urban Moscow)

(scale: very rough approximation)

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FYI

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AUG 25 1997

ASSASSINATION RECORDS
REVIEW BOARD

Aug. 21, 1997

Dr. Michelle Coombs
Assassination Records Review Board
600 E St. NW 2nd Floor
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Dr. Coombs:

In culling some clippings I discovered the attached photo of the American Embassy in Moscow, at least the building that housed it when I was there 1959-61.

It is the way I remember it, but as of then it is mislabelled:

What is labelled "Main Entrance" was in my time permanently closed and blocked, as it may also be in this picture. The main entrance was through the Vehicle Entrance as correctly labelled. And the "Consulate" was not then in the lower floor of the North Wing, but rather next to the Administration offices in the lower floor of the main building.

(see my sketch plan)
The apartment areas seem listed correctly as of my time and the same for the upper three floors of offices. The street is the wide Sadovaya/ (Chaikovsky section) and the cars are the classic Russian "Volgas".

I hope the above is helpful.

John McVickar

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NARA 9-12 DATE 11-28-9

Withdrawn Item

from the records of the
JFK Assassination Records Review Board

Case Number: 99309K
Series: Michelle Combs Files
Box #: 12
Folder: John McVickar
Subject: Misc. from Montague 10/11/96
Pages: 2

Authority: *PL 102-526*

§6(1) _____	Special Media _____
§6(2) _____	Other _____
§6(3) _____	
§6(4) <u>X</u>	
§6(5) _____	